



## **PROGRESS REPORT NO. 85**

**TO:** Dr. Laura Buelow – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) - via Email  
Matt Wilkening – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) - via Email

**FROM:** Kris McCaig – Teck American Incorporated (TAI)

**DATE:** August 13, 2013

**FILE NO:** 01-773180-000

**RE:** Upper Columbia River (UCR) Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study  
(RI/FS) - Progress Report No. 85 Month Ending July 2013

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Pursuant to Paragraph 39 of the June 2, 2006 Settlement Agreement (Agreement), the following is intended to provide a summary of activities completed during the past month in compliance with the aforementioned Agreement. It is also intended to provide a brief summary of pending and on-going activities.

All applications/requests for permits and/or permission to conduct sediment sampling activities as outlined within the EPA-approved Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) for the Phase 2 Sediment Study have been submitted including the Spokane Tribe of Indians, the Government of Canada, the U.S. Department of the Interior National Park Service and the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation (CCT). At the time of writing, the CCT and the Park Service have responded to the permit applications and TAI is in the process of working with both parties to resolve issues surrounding requirements to collect split bioassay sediment samples.

One of the tributary sampling locations that TAI must collect a sediment sample to complete the Phase 2 Sediment Study sampling work is located in Crown Creek of Stevens County at the following latitude/longitude coordinates (48.8614/ -117.9446). Based on a review of County records, it is our understanding that this sample collection point is located on private property (i.e., Parcel No. 2006601. As such, TAI has requested and been granted permission for sampling technicians to access this location and collect sediment samples.

TAI continued to evaluate elements of EPA's soil level of effort paper in the preparation of a draft soils QAPP. Consistent with recent discussions, TAI is working towards submitting a draft soils QAPP this year with the primary goal of completing this draft deliverable prior to 2013 Phase 2 sediment sampling activities.

TAI is in receipt of the June 14, 2013 letter from EPA with comments on the Draft Assessment of Sediment Toxicity to White Sturgeon Data Summary Report and are reviewing and evaluating the comments.

On July 2, 2013 the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) transmitted to EPA, a response to review comments and their revised report entitled “Acute and Chronic Sensitivity of White Sturgeon (*Acipenser transmontanus*) and Rainbow Trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) to Cadmium, Copper, Lead, or Zinc in Water-Only Laboratory Exposures” (USGS, 2013). TAI committed to EPA to provide our responses by August 29, 2013.

Comments on the draft QAPP for the Bossburg Flat Beach Refined Sediment Study were received from EPA on July 3, 2013. In a response dated July 19, 2013, TAI notified EPA that it disputed three aspects of EPA’s comments. Regardless of the dispute and consistent with the terms and conditions of the Settlement Agreement, TAI is working to modify the document based on aspects not being disputed.

Should you have any questions or require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 509-623-4501.